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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,937	06/04/2002	Martin John Charles Offa-Jones	THOM-0021	4754

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EXAMINER

BRITTAIN, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/070,937

Applicant(s)

OFFA-JONES, MARTIN JOHN
CHARLES

Examiner

James R. Brittain

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kapperman et al. (US 6004032) in view of Bentsen (US 4673383).

Kapperman et al. (figure 11) teaches a reclosable fastener comprising a male/female 152, 154 closure between a pair of opposed base members secured to package walls 156, 158 respectively, wherein a single flange extends upwardly from the female member 154 and is inherently capable of being used for attachment of the closure to a web or film through the statement that the female profile 154 is secured to a package wall 158 (col. 9, lines 44-45). There are no flanges extending from either side of the base of the male member 152. The difference is that each base member lacks one single pair of ribs with one rib of each pair positioned one at a respective margin of the respective base member to secure the base member to the web or film. However, Bentsen (figure 8) teaches reclosable closure structure with one single pair of ribs 55 with one rib of each pair positioned one at a respective margin of the respective base member to secure the base member to the web or film while permitting the fastening strip to be spirally wound and retained in such a configuration by retaining the spirally wound assembly against lateral displacement as would permit entanglement during payoff or unwinding of the strip from a supply roll and possible interference with the processing to which

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the zipper strip assembly is subjected downstream from the payoff from the supply roll (col. 6, lines 7-24; col. 5, lines 39-54). As it would be beneficial to seek to prevent entanglement of the fastener elements of Kapperman et al. when wound on a supply roll as is common in the storing and using of these products, it would have been obvious to modify the closure of Kapperman et al. so that each base member has one single pair of ribs with one rib of each pair positioned one at a respective margin of the respective base member to secure the base member to the web or film in view of Bentsen (figure 8) teaching such structure to be desirable to both permit secure fastening of the bases to the film or web while permitting the fastening strip to be spirally wound and retained in such a configuration by retaining the spirally wound assembly against lateral displacement as would permit entanglement during payoff or unwinding of the strip from a supply roll and possible interference with the processing to which the zipper strip assembly is subjected downstream from the payoff from the supply roll (col. 6, lines 7-24; col. 5, lines 39-54).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kapperman et al. (US 6004032) in view of Bentsen (US 4673383) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Custer et al. (US 5216787).

Further modification of the closure of Kapperman et al. such that sealant material is co-extruded on to each rib as shown by Bentsen would have in view of Custer et al. (figure 3) teaching that it is desirable to do so in order to have a intermediate ribs 325 between the closure and adhesive ribs that act as a tie material to better match the material of the closure to that of the adhesive wherein it is desirable to have the materials co-extruded so that there is a stronger securement.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to accord the meaning applicant describes in the remarks on page 3, ¶5. However, Bentsen (figure 8) clearly shows a single pair of ribs associated with each base wherein on rib of each pair is at a respective base margin. The limitation is therefore obvious over the combination of art as described above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

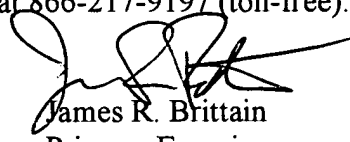
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (703) 308-2222. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB